



MESCAL-J6 FIRE DISTRICT

Ed Nied - Fire Chief

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Fire Chief Report

January 2026

Presented at February 25, 2026, Board Meeting

Incidents: 1/1- 1/31/26: 48 total; fire- 4; ems- 30 ; other-. 14

Total for 2026 –48; 2025—45 calls = 9% increase.

Mutual aid: given- 3, received-0; billable calls-1.

Significant calls: House fire in Mescal-J6 Fire District

Hazard Mitigation Collections:

January received \$1,142.27 Still working on 14 totaling \$15,088.25

Have billed UPRR for train fire extinguishment. Nearly \$1000.

Projects:

Strategic Plan: I have been going through the plan and updating progress in the areas we've made strides in.

Policy Review:

I will continue to evaluate and bring forward. The ones worked on in the work session Feb 11 still need some attention before bringing forward for final review.

IT: Working on possibility of gaining Spillman interface between the CAD and our tablet. This will allow information to be downloaded and save time on writing reports. Also working to get info auto downloaded to our billing company, reducing duplication. Attempting to be more efficient. New ESO system is difficult at times....still learning how to navigate.

Repeater:

I have filled out paperwork for State Land. This should be final step in making it happen. We must make it work. It's a real safety issue for our personnel.

Admin:

Ramp up from dirt to cement is complete for now. Lights are working well.

Have secured a free Connex box. We will be moving the turnouts from bay into it so they don't absorb the diesel fumes, and they don't off-gas carcinogens on our personnel. Due to space, the bays are used for training and education. This is a critical step in protecting our personnel.

Activities:

Audit complete. Sent to County as per ARS this morning.

First training on new rescue tools complete—our personnel. We will be doing the same for our neighboring districts (Benson, St David and Pomerene) as well. Trying to do classroom first, then realistic drill scenarios. Will be conducting in March.

Fire extinguisher and SCBA air quality testing are also coming soon. All required by law or standard.

Will need gate entrance/exit so we can get as close to tank as possible, eliminating a long run of piping from tank to road. We are looking at soft hose with a trash pump so the filling will be faster. This should reduce the cost to homeowners. We will be targeting tanks 2500 gal and greater. More to come....

Grant Activities:

GOHS- Training now begins for other districts/depts. First quarter report in.

Ak-Chin Grant- We have received the executed contract, and the money has been sent to County and is now in our account. The extractor should be delivered by end of Feb.

HRFSA- wrote for two pickup trucks, fully loaded with EMS, rescue and other safety equipment. This will improve safety, ensure we have at least one truck in service and have capabilities to get back into tight spaces with new ATV rescue. GREAT NEWS! I received official word from Senator Kelly's office that \$650,000 of the CDS was allocated to MJFD. I should be getting email soon to find out what next steps are.

2027 CDS will be opening soon. I will be attending a training session on this.

Fire House Subs- wrote for six full sets of turnouts. \$37000

AFG- will be opening soon. Suppression helmets, boots, gloves, open and we are in for turnouts. We were not allowed to change it in any way. This is an extension of our 2024 AFG.

100 Club- PPE, not open until March. If AFG and FHS don't come through we will try for turnouts.

FPS- Wrote for community risk reduction evaluation, \$11,650. We will not do it unless we get grant. No word yet on this as it was part of government shutdown timeline. However, we have been continually posting things on FB and NextDoor to educate the public on reducing their risk.

BLM Brush Truck- still awaiting decision--- made it to Federal level.

Arizona 1st and USDA- will be utilizing them hopefully for portions of the station and community center plan.

Rep. Lupe Diaz has put in 10.2 million on appropriations for our new station and community center. Chances are we will end up getting far less, but we will see, so we know what to go after in way of donations, other grants. Again, trying hard to do everything to relieve tax burden as we move forward.

I have been invited to the SEADG luncheons going forward. I have attended 2. It's a good chance to make connections and hear what else is going on.

I have been asked to sit on the Legislative Committee for the Arizona Special District Alliance. I've accepted and my hope is we can share and learn how to assist our and other areas within the county. It's an effort to be heard and educate legislators on special district (especially rural) issues and needs. More to come.....

EOR